

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with AECASSOWARY/2 and AECASSOWARY/3 in Washington on 15 May 1968

1. Subjects came to Washington to give A/3 an opportunity to meet with the project case officer, DC/SB/SOV [] [] and SB/CAO [] [] who had never before met A/3. The meeting took place in my home, where A/3 and 2 later were entertained at cocktails and dinner. [] [] a former case officer on the project, who A/3 asked to see, arrived about 5 o'clock. [] [] did not stay for dinner. Various topics of interest were discussed with A/3, particularly the position of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (the Byzantine Rite or Uniate church) vis-a-vis the present dialogue between the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox church in Moscow.

2. In the Vatican's anxiety to establish cordial relations with the Moscow patriarchate and a Roman Catholic diocese in Moscow, The Ukrainian Catholic Church (which was officially liquidated by Soviet authorities in 1955) was finding itself in the position of the sacrificial lamb. A/3 said there are not only Ukrainian Catholic priests but also bishops in the Ukraine today who are ministering to the faithful. The names and locations of these priests and bishops are known to A/3 and to Cardinal Yosif Slipyj now in the Vatican. According to A/3, Cardinal Slipyj, who has been criticized by Ukrainian Catholic clergy in the West for remaining silent concerning the persecution he suffered in the Soviet Union is fighting a one man battle to preserve the Ukrainian Catholic Church from Latinization. He has recorded all his experiences in the Soviet Union but his memoirs must remain under lock and key for the present because of promises he made to the late Pope John to refrain from making any statements which would inhibit the Vatican's negotiations with Moscow.

3. Cardinal Slipyj has been invited to visit Canada and the latest indications are that he will arrive there on 14 June and from there travel to Bogota to join Pope Paul's entourage at the Eucharistic Congress. The cardinal hopes to conduct a synod of Ukrainian Catholic bishops, including those from the United States.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

15 May 68

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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